

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02094 131321Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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UNCLAS BEIRUT 2094

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: BRIDGE NOMENCLATURE

REF: JERUSALEM 1009.

1. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE NAMES OF THE BRIDGES ACROSS THE LITANI. WE GATHER FROM REFTEL AND OTHERS THAT UNTSO THINKS THE NAME OF THE MIDDLE BRIDGE IS AQAYA OR AKIA OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THE NAME IN FACT IS AN ALMOST UNPRONOUNCEABLE QA'QA'IYA (FROM THE ONOMATOPOEIC ROOT QA'QA'A--TO CLATTER, RATTLE OR CLANK). QA'QA'IYA IS ACTUALLY A VILLAGE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE LITANI AND ITS NAME ALLEGEDLY REFERS TO THE NOISE OF FROGS IN THE RIVER. IN ANY EVENT, Q'S HAVE BEEN ELIDED BY SOME WRETCHED CITY BOY WHO IS UNTSO'S ULTIMATE INFORMANT, THUS THE MALFORMATION.

2. THE WESTERN MOST BRIDGE IS PROPERLY SPELLED QASIMIYAH, ACCORDING TO THE BGN BOOK, PERHAPS COMING FROM THE NEAR-BY SHRINE OF NABI QASIM. IT IS USUALLY PRONOUNCED LOCALLY, HOWEVER, AS QASMIYAH, AND THE LOCAL FOLK ETYMOLOGY IS THAT THE NAME REFERS TO THE RIVER'S FUNCTION OF DIVIDING THE
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CAZAS OF SIDON AND TYRE. (THE LITANI IS CALLED THE QASMIYAH IN ITS WESTWARD REACHES).

3. THE EASTERNMOST BRIDGE, KHARADLI, MAY BE NAMED FOR WILD MUSTARD GROWING IN THE VICINITY, OR MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WIT KALB SUKHN.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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